Register of the
William Ward Simpson Collection
Collection 81

Center for Adventist Research
James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, MI 49014-1440
January 2009
Processed by: Gluder Quispe
William Ward Simpson Collection
Collection 81

Scope and Content:

William Ward Simpson was the first successful Adventist big city evangelist attracting crowds as large as 2,000 in Los Angeles in 1906. Although he died at the age of 36, he brought significant innovations to Seventh-day Adventist evangelism. He is best remembered for his folding prophetic chart which he published in 1899. Using the “flip chart” principle, it simply and effectively presented the major prophecies of Daniel and Revelation (Box 2 Fld 19).

W. W. Simpson (see photographs Bx 2 Fld 1, 2) was born in Brooklyn, New York, on August 1, 1872 to William Ward Simpson Sr. and Anne Turner (For biographical information see Box 1 Fld 6, 7, 8); died on April 28, 1907, at Glendale, California. He was one at six children; but the only one to survive early childhood. The family returned to England. When William Jr. was twelve years old, he and his parents returned to the United States where they planned to make their home. During the boat trip, William Sr. became very ill with pneumonia and died after arriving in Florida.

When a youth in Battle Creek, Simpson served first as call-boy in the sanitarium and later as errand boy in the office of Good Health. Afterward he completed an apprenticeship in the Review and Herald Office. As a boy, William had no religious faith. His father and grandfather were atheists and the boy had a poor chance to know a loving heavenly Father because of his own fathers example and teachings.

He was converted in 1890, and not long thereafter, while running a press in the office, he suddenly stopped the machine and informed the foreman that he was going to leave that job in order to assist in spreading the light of the third angel’s message in the earth. He first labored as a canvasser, then Michigan Conference granted him a license to preach (Box 1 Fld 28). He labored successfully among the Indians in Ontario, Canada, and later in Michigan. His efforts brought good results. The laws of Canada made him a law breaker on account of his religious convictions, and he was compelled to remain a prisoner forty days in the Chatham, Ontario, jail (see photocopy of photograph in Box 1 Fld 10).

William married Nellie F. Ballenger on May 10, 1899, in Sheridan, Illinois. They had three children. On June 17, 1899 William was ordained to the ministry (Bx 1 Fld 27). In California after 1902, he conducted successful meetings in Oakland, Los Angeles, and in several of the larger cities of Southern California.

The William Ward Simpson Collection consists of two boxes which includes correspondence, information about the papier mache beasts, material on the Ballenger family, his evangelistic work, and writings. There is also some material from his daughter, Winea J. Simpson.
**Arrangement:**

The collection was not well organized when it was received. It is artificially ordered to reflect five sections.

- Donation
- Personal
- Ballenger Family
- Evangelist Work
- Writings

Within each section the folders are arranged by person and then in a somewhat chronological arrangement. The letters are strictly chronological.

The three dimensional beasts are on display in the exhibit room of the Andrews University Center for Adventist Research.

**Provenance:**

Lavon M. and Fred Ramsey (William W. Simpson’s granddaughter), donated the collection to the Andrews University Center for Adventist Research on November 29, 1976. As an interesting side note, the Turner Moving Company crated and moved the beasts from California to Michigan, charging $500 to do so.

**Use:**

All users of this collection are required to completer the “Application to Use Unpublished Records,” and to observe the regulation specified in the “Patron Agreement” and “Researcher’s Code of Conduct.” All records in this collection are open and available for research. Citation for this collection:

Box ___ Fld ___, William Ward Simpson (Collection 81), Center for Adventist Research, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.
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Inventory

I. Donation

Agreement

Bx 1  Fld 1  Deed of Gift Agreement between Mrs. Lavon M. Ramsey (W. W. Simpson’s Granddaughter) and The Heritage Room, James White Library, Louise Dederen, Curator.
Nov 11, 1976.

Correspondence

Deed of Gift Agreements
Bx 1  Fld 2  Letter from Louise Dederen to Fred M. Ramsey (enclosed a “Deed of Agreement), Sep 29, 1976.
Letter from Lavon M. Ramsey to Louise Dederen (replying), Dec 14, 1976.
List of the beasts.

Shipping
Bx 1  Fld 3  Letter from Turner Moving & Storage to Louise Dederen, Jul 2, 1976.
Letter from Fred M. Ramsey to Louise Dederen, attached the paper of shipping, Jul 9, 1976.
Letter from Edwana Dean (Turner Moving & Store) to Louise Dederen, Jul 26, 1976.
Letter from Louise Dederen to Fred M. Ramsey, Sep 14, 1976.
Repair of the Biblical Animals

Bx 1  Fld 4  Estimate for repairing the broken wing (leopard) and damaged plastic figure by Alan Collins, Sep 27, 1976.
Estimate for repairing to Nebuchadnezzar idol by Greg Constantine, Mar 8, 1977.

II. Personal

Biographical Information

Bx 1  Fld 5  Biographical Sketches from his daughter Winea Simpson, titled “Evangelist William Ward Simpson, “ (5 pages, 2 copies).
Biography of W. W. Simpson (another) from Winea Simpson (4 pages, + 1 photocopy).
Biography Information, received May 6, 1971 (photocopies 10 pages and handwritten).

Correspondence

William W. Simpson
Bx 1  Fld 6  William. W. Simpson to Editor of Buffalo Currier Jan 29, 1900.
A. H. Deike to W. W. Simpson, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, Dec 2, 1903.
Isaac Morrison to W. W. Simpson, Sacramento, California, Dec 4, 1906.
William W. Simpson to His Mother, Oakland, California, Dec 7, 1907 ? (+ 1 envelope).
Emily H. Cornish? to W. W. and Nellie Simpson, Ontario, Feb 12, no year (5 pages).

Ellen G. White
Bx 1  Fld 7  To William. W. Simpson, College View, Nebraska, Sep 18, 1904. (typed original, signed, 4 pages, + 1 modern envelope).
To William. W. Simpson, San Diego, California, Jan 30, 1906 (typed original, stamped signature, 4 pages, + a piece of envelope).
To William W. Simpson, Oakland, California, Aug 20, 1906.
(typed original, stamped signature, 2 pages).
To William W. Simpson, Sanatarium, Napa Co., California, Dec 4, 1906 (typed original, stamped signature, 9 pages).

Nellie Simpson

Bx 1 Fld 8  Mary Dickson to Nellie Simpson, Liverpool Nov 4, 1905.
Winea Simpson to Nellie, Pacific Union College, Apr 18, 1921.
Winea Simpson to Nellie, Pacific Union College, May 8, 1921.
No name to Nellie, Glendals, Dec 28, 1926 (+ envelope).

Others Letters

Bx 1  Fld 9  No name to F. B. Raymond (farmer), Sheridan, Mar 11, 1894.
James E. to Eliza Ballenger, Mar 19, 1896.

Certification

Bx 1  Fld10  Certificate of Ordination, London, Ontario, on Sabbath Jun 17, 1899.
Credentials: “Ordained Minister,” Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Sep 1, 1906.

Financial Documents

Deeds

Bx 1  Fld11  “Deed,” Rancho San Rafael, Los Angeles, Mar 21, 1905.
“Certificate of Title,” to property in Glendale (then Tropico) where church members built the Simpsons a house, [house no longer standing since 1982], Mar 29, 1905.
“Deed,” to property, Tropico, Cal, Jun 29, 1905.
“Grant Deed,” Real property in the Rancho San Rafael, Los Angeles, granted to Nellie B. Simpson, Apr 17, 1907.

Others

Bx 1  Fld12  Checkbook, some checks already used.
Bx 1  Fld13  Notebooks of accounts.
Bx 1  Fld15  Receipt from E. W. Reynolds Company to William W. Simpson, Jul 2, 1906 (+ 1 photocopy).
Bx 1  Fld16  Business card of “Wm. Ward Simpson, Watchmaker and Jeweler.”
Personal Artifacts

William W. Simpson
  Bx 1 Fld17  Bible with internal markings and notes.
  Bx 1 Fld18  1 seal: the ark of covenant.

Nellie Simpson
  Bx 1 Fld19  A hat woman.
  Bx 1 Fld20  Little bag with her hair.

Photographs

[Box 2 folders 1 to 7, folder 9 and folder 20 photographs are now in the Center’s Photograph Collection and may be found by looking for the W. W. Simpson Collection.]

Simpson Family
  Bx 2 Fld 1  William Ward Simpson, 4 photographs.
  Bx 2 Fld 2  William Ward Simpson, original frame, 1 photograph (colorized).
  Bx 2 Fld 3  Nellie Ballenger Simpson, 1 photograph.
  Bx 2 Fld 4  William W. and Nellie Simpson, 2 photographs.
  Bx 2 Fld 5  Winea Simpson, 6 photographs.

Ellen G. White
  Bx 2 Fld 6  Ellen G. White, steel engraving (Merrick and Palmer, 321 So. Hill St. Los Angeles, California).
  Bx 2 Fld 7  Family Bible Mrs White held while in vision.

Others
  Bx 2 Fld 8  William Miller (older reprint).
  Bx 2 Fld 9  A House, 2 photographs.
  Temple of Riverside, California.
  Bx 2 Fld10 Twelve photocopies of photographs from Simpson's evangelistic work, the Simpsons, Simpson in Jail.
III. Ballenger Family

Correspondence

Bx 2  Fld11  J. F. Ballenger to “Brother Tenney”, Tropico, California, Mar 1, 1917 (notebook format).
J. F. Ballenger to A. F. Ballenger, Tropico, California, Feb, 1907 (5 handwritten pages, + envelope)

Testament

Bx 2  Fld12  Last Will Statement of J. F. Ballenger (Handwritten, 1 page + modern envelope).

Writings


IV. Evangelistic Work

Advertisements

Bx 2  Fld16  For evangelistic work
“Turn this Card and Watch the Horns Change,” (6 items).
“The Converted Rumseller,” (9 items).
“The Triple Crown His Number 666,” (20 items).
“Have You a Carnal Mind?” (6 items).
“Spiritualism Exposed,” (2 items).
“The Millennium of the Binding of Satan,” (1 item).
“The Phenomena of Spiritualism Exposed,” (1 item).
“Will the Old Book Stand?” (1 item).

Bx 2  Fld17  “Something to Eat,” a draft.

Chart

Bx 2  Fld18  Facsimile of the Original 1843 Chart.
Objects

Oversize: The Seven Paper-Mache Beasts at Center for Adventist Research
(James White Library, Andrews University, on display).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beast</th>
<th>Wide (in.)</th>
<th>Length (in.)</th>
<th>Height (in.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lion</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leopard</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dreadful Beast</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ram</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Beast with seven heads and ten horns</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pamphlet

Bx 2 Fld19 “An Explanation of the New Folding Prophetic Chart.”

Photographs

Box 2 folder 20 photographs are now in the Center’s Photograph Collection and may be found by looking for the W. W. Simpson Collection.

Bx 2 Fld20 Materials used in evangelist work.

William W. Simpson together with people in front of evangelistic tent.

William W. Simpson in evangelistic tent, with “beasts.”
V. Writings

William W. Simpson

Article

Pamphlets
Bx 2 Fld22 “All His Commandments are Sure,” (4 copies).
Bx 2 Fld23 “Tradition or Bible –Which?” (4 pages + 1 draft).
Bx 2 Fld24 “What’s A Name?”
Bx 2 Fld25 “Whither Are We Drifting?”

Sermons
Bx 2 Fld26 Parable of the Sower, Matthew 10, Handwritten.
Bx 2 Fld27 Bound notebook with sermons, bible studies by topic (handwritten, 241 pages).

Winea J. Simpson

Article

Booklets
Bx 2 Fld29 “Earth Showeth His Handiwork, The,”
Bx 2 Fld30 “Homemaking Teachers in Public Health.”
Bx 2 Fld31 “Jealousy of the New Baby.”

Handout

Handwritten
Bx 2 Fld33 “Story of my life as mother,” (4 pages).

Ellen G. White


Others

Bx 2  Fld36  “Pastoral Lamb, The,” by L. W. Herrick.

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